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EXETER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1959

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EXETER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION - 1959.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1959, and I am pleased to report also that no cases of infectious diseases occurred on board any of the ships coming into this port.

As in previous years, a close watch has been kept on ships to determine the presence of rats, but no evidence of rat infestation came to light.

In general the standard of cleanliness of the shipping entering the port has been satisfactory, and it has not been necessary to take any action in regard to sanitary defects.

The total net registered tonnage entering the port has fallen this year from 52,541 in 1958 to 49,647 in 1959 and it is noted that this fall in tonnage applies both to the Exmouth harbour and the shipping entering the Exeter basin.

Regarding the shipping from foreign ports, there has been an increase in the total net registered tonnage from 10,939 in 1958 to 11,986 in 1959. As in the past years the chief imports into the Port Health district have been petrol and coal and timber.

A table showing a summary of the annual net registered tonnage of ships entering the Port Health District from 1926 to 1959 is included in the report this year; and this table, together with a sketch plan of the Port Health Authority district will no doubt be of interest, particularly to the relatively new members of the Authority.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Exeter Port Health Authority for their continued help and support. I should also like to thank all members of the staff for their wholehearted co-operation shown to me during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

L.G. ANDERSON,

Port Medical Officer.

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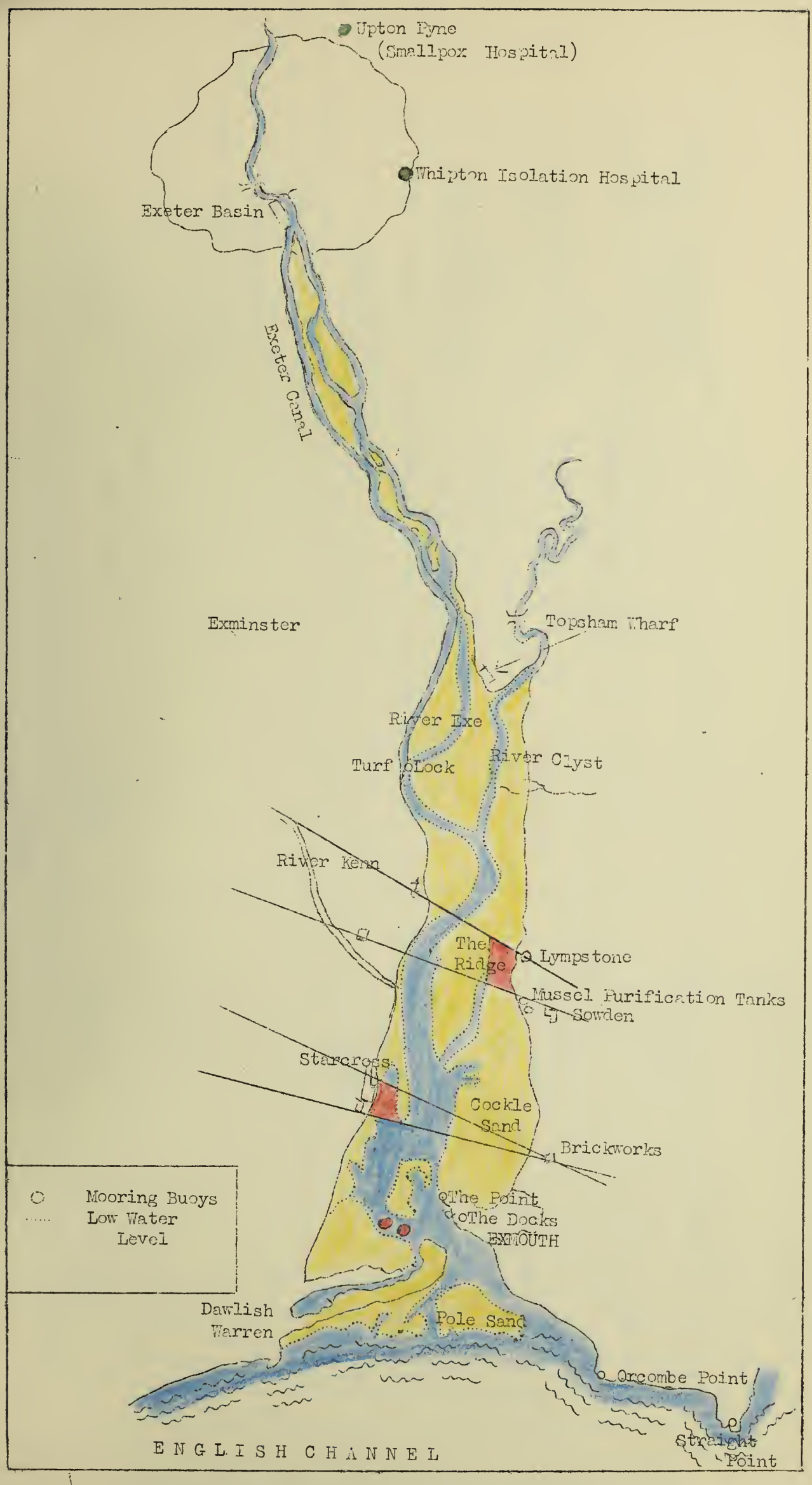

DIAGRAMATIC REPRESENTATION OF EXETER PORT HEALTH AREA.

SECTION I - STAFF

TABLE A.

NAME OF OFFICER	NATURE OF APPOINTMENT.	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	QUALIFICATIONS	ANY OTHER APPOINTMENTS
Dr.L.G.Anderson	Port Medical Officer.	1.8.1948	M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of: Exmouth U.D.C. Budleigh Salterton U.D.C. St. Thomas R.D.C. Asst. County Medical Officer. Devon County Council.
Dr.D.L.M.Moore	Deputy Port Medical Officer	1.4.1941	B.A., M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O.	General Medical Practitioner.
Mr. F.G. Davies	Port Health Inspector (Exeter Basin)	1.4.1943	F.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E., F.A.P.H.I. (Meat & Other Foods Cert.)	Senior Public Health Inspector, Exeter City Council.
Mr.D.R.Redgwell	Port Health Inspector (Exmouth Harbour)	22.1.1951	M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., (Meat & Other Foods Cert). (Smoke Inspectors Certificate)	Public Health Inspector Exmouth U.D.C.
Mr. K.C. Benham	Port Health Inspector (Topsham Quay).	1.4.1953	Cert. S.I.B., F.A.P.H.I	Chief Public Health Inspector St. Thomas Rural District Council

SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE B.

SHIPS FROM	NUMBER	TONNAGE (Net Registered)	NUMBER INSPECTED		NUMBER OF SHIPS REPORTED AS HAVING HAD, DURING THE VOYAGE INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON BOARD
			BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	
Foreign Ports	83	11,986	13	62	-
Coastwise	286	37,661	-	276	-
Total	369	49,647	13	338	-

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL NETT REGISTERED TONNAGE OF SHIPS
ENTERING THE PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY DISTRICT FROM
1926 - 1959

	FOREIGN				COASTWISE				TOTAL
Year	Exeter	Exmouth	Topsham	Total Foreign	Exeter	Exmouth	Topsham	Total Coastwise	Foreign & Coastwise
1926	3,683	9,599	2,515	15,797	6,409	3,924	1,461	11,794	27,591
1927	5,754	11,633	2,974	20,361	5,669	3,366	3,045	12,080	32,441
1928	5,175	7,961	2,935	16,071	6,236	5,307	2,924	14,467	30,538
1929	4,347	6,923	1,397	12,667	7,008	6,867	3,925	17,800	30,467
1930	4,509	5,567	2,938	13,014	6,049	6,972	5,218	18,239	31,253
1931	4,485	11,189	1,408	17,082	6,174	7,931	4,696	18,801	35,883
1932	4,511	14,002	400	18,913	6,695	7,539	5,993	20,227	39,140
1933	3,561	11,044	704	15,264	11,575	16,148	7,089	34,812	50,076
1934	5,459	10,613	537	16,609	16,908	17,233	7,795	41,936	58,545
1935	4,507	9,423	494	14,424	19,944	17,809	7,497	47,250	61,674
1936	4,836	10,208	387	15,431	19,961	22,406	9,783	52,150	67,581
1937	3,967	8,150	390	12,507	18,912	24,763	8,226	51,901	64,408
1938	5,131	10,075	-	15,206	20,021	25,886	8,323	54,230	69,436
1939	5,246	7,220	-	12,466	20,975	21,474	5,424	47,873	60,339
1940	-	577	-	577	6,930	8,412	2,014	17,356	17,933
1941	-	-	-	-	188	5,871	-	6,059	6,059
1942	-	-	-	-	582	3,175	-	3,757	3,757
1943	-	-	-	-	1,435	7,594	-	9,029	9,029
1944	-	-	-	-	1,035	5,088	-	6,123	6,123
1945	-	333	-	333	1,223	6,870	-	8,093	8,426
1946	95	740	-	835	6,491	9,882	45	16,418	17,253
1947	279	979	-	1,258	6,439	21,016	-	27,455	28,713
1948	911	3,035	-	3,946	13,520	18,108	-	31,628	35,574
1949	687	3,651	-	4,338	16,872	15,523	-	32,395	36,733
1950	1,434	1,014	-	2,448	17,192	17,231	-	34,423	36,871
1951	2,399	819	-	3,218	16,900	19,167	-	36,067	39,285
1952	1,491	1,850	-	3,341	18,841	20,348	-	39,189	42,630
1953	2,206	2,780	118	5,104	22,006	22,170	186	44,362	49,466
1954	1,376	5,629	-	7,005	25,795	21,737	190	47,722	54,727
1955	2,630	9,293	178	12,101	26,013	24,563	-	50,576	62,677
1956	2,395	5,179	97	7,671	25,802	21,302	-	47,104	54,775
1957	2,881	5,082	-	7,963	20,406	22,285	-	42,691	50,654
1958	2,201	7,780	958	10,939	22,137	19,465	-	41,602	52,541
1959	2,843	7,478	1,665	11,986	21,120	16,541	-	37,661	49,647.

SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There are no barges which use this district.

SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY

(1) Sources of Supply for (a) the district and (b) shipping. The water supplies serving the sanitary districts are used for the shipping at their respective wharfs viz:

(a) Exmouth Harbour — Exmouth Urban District Public supply.

(b) Exeter Basin — Exeter City Council Public supply.

(c) Topsham — St. Thomas R.D.C. Public supply to Topsham parish.

(2) Reports of tests for contamination.

Routine regular tests are carried out by the responsible authorities viz: Exmouth U.D.C., St. Thomas R.D.C., and Exeter City Council. All these supplies are chlorinated and the bacteriological results were satisfactory.

(3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes

The hydrants and hosepipes are regularly inspected by the Port Health Inspector. The hosepipes are stored under cover when not in use and are well flushed out prior to use.

(4) Number and sanitary condition of water boats.

There are no water boats operating at this port.

SECTION VI - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS 1952

(1) List of Infected Areas

A copy of the list of infected areas supplied by the World Health Organisation, is prepared weekly at the office of the Port Medical Officer, Templetown Lodge, Esplanade, Exmouth and is forwarded by post to the following persons:-

(1) Mr. S. Connor, Custom's Officer, Exmouth.
(2) Mr. F.G. Davies, Port Health Inspector, Exeter Basin.
(3) Mr. D.R. Redgwell, Port Health Inspector, Exmouth Harbour.
(4) Executive Officer, Exeter Airport, Honiton Clyst.
(5) Mr. K.C. Benham, Port Health Inspector, Topsham Wharf.

(2) Radio Messages

(a) Arrangements for sending permission, by radio, for ships to enter the district

Arrangements have been made with the Post Office for sending Wireless Messages if required. None were sent during 1959.

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon

Arrangements have been made with the Post Office for receiving Wireless Messages if required. None were received during 1958

(3) Notifications otherwise than by radio

Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

Arrangements have been made with the Post Office for the transmission of telegrams to the Port Medical Officer - none were received during the year.

A constant watch is maintained at H.M. Coastguard Station Exmouth from which signals by morse or flag may be sent or received as and when necessary and transmitted to Medical Officer of Health or the Police.

(4) Mooring Stations

(a) Ships proceeding up the canal to Exeter basin

There are two buoys situated in that portion of the estuary of the River Exe known as the Bight to which all ships arriving from foreign ports make fast before boarding by H.M. Custom's Officers.

(b) Ships whose destination is Exmouth harbour may make fast either to the buoys, as above, or to the pier head, Exmouth.

Where action is to be taken under Regulations 22 - 30 (Regulations dealing with the control of Infectious Diseases), the ships will be made fast to one of the buoys situated in the Bight, as above.

(5) Arrangements for:

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox).

Patients suffering from infectious disease will be transferred by ambulance to the Infectious Disease hospital of the Regional Hospital Board at Whipton, Exeter (Tel.No. Exeter 67158).

(b) Surveillance and follow-up of contacts

Surveillance and follow-up of contacts will be undertaken by the Port Medical Officer whilst the ship is within this district. Where the ship has to proceed to another port before the expiration of the period of surveillance, the contacts will be given letters to take to the Port Medical Officer of the next port of call informing him of the circumstances.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, person and clothing and other articles

Disinfection of ships will, when necessary, be undertaken by the Port Health Inspector, the formaldehyde method being used. Disinfection of clothing or bedding may be carried out at the steam disinfector station of the Exmouth Urban District Council or Exeter City Council.

Cleansing of verminous persons will be carried out by the Port Health Inspector on the ship itself and his clothing, bedding etc., removed to the steam disinfector station at Exmouth or Exeter, as appropriate, for steam disinfestation.

SECTION VII - SMALLPOX

(1) The Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases will be sent from the district is "The Upton Pyne Smallpox Hospital" (5 miles from Exeter) Tel.No. Stoke Canon 207 The admission will be made through the Medical Officer of the Whipton Isolation Hospital (Tel.No. Exeter 67158). The vaccination state of the Hospital staff is up to date.

(2) The transport of cases of smallpox will be undertaken by a special infection disease ambulance by arrangement with the Exeter City Ambulance Officer (Tel.No. Exeter 55485).

(3) Consultants:

The following consultants are available as and when necessary:-

1. East Devon: Dr. E.J.G. Wallace, Health Centre, Westham Road, WEYMOUTH, Dorset — Tel.No. 1645 and 16; Home: 1513 Weymouth.

2. Cornwall & Devon to the River Exe

   Dr. D.F. Johnstone, Isolation Hospital, PLYMOUTH. — 64311 & 61437; Home: 3358 Plymouth.

3. Devon & Cornwall

   Dr. W.A. Lister, 7, The Crescent, PLYMOUTH. — 5701 Plymouth; Home: 40 Devonport

(4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox

Specimens for laboratory diagnosis will be sent to:

Virus Reference Laboratory,
Central Public Health Laboratory,
Colindale Avenue,
LONDON, N.W.9.

SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE

Masters of vessles are informed of the following arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements

Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital:

Mondays: 19.00 hrs. to 20.00 hrs.
Fridays: 14 00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.

SECTION IX - CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF SHIPS.

There have been no cases of infectious diseases aboard ships entering the port during 1959.

SECTION X - OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

No cases of malaria were notified.

SECTION XI - MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED OF PLAGUE.

No measures were necessary under this section.

SECTION XII - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

(1) Procedure for inspection of ships for rats - Enquiries are made from masters of all vessels using the port concerned regarding the presence of rats, and if present, of signs of unusual mortality among the rats.

No evidence of rats was found on any ships entering the port during the year.

(2) The bacteriological examination of rodents with special reference to rodent plague are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Exeter.

There were no cases of rodent infestation discovered during the year.

(3) Deratting of ships

The Exeter Port Health Authority is not a recognised authority for this purpose. A ship requiring deratization would be referred to the Port of Plymouth.

(4) Progress of rat-proofing of ships

The general construction of the ships and nature of the cargo of the ships using this port are not conducive to rat breeding and other than efforts to maintain a high standard of cleanliness, no action appears necessary.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from Foreign Ports

Nil.

DERATTING CERTIFICATE AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

In accordance with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Application to Shipping Order, 1951 - 1956, 6 Rodent Control Certificates were issued under the provisions of this Order. A charge of ten shillings was made in each case, as authorised by the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping), (Amendment No.2) Order, 1956. This money was paid, as received, to the Clerk of the Authority.

SECTION XIII - INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

Inspection and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections		Notices served		Result of serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Routine	338	-	-	-
TOTAL:	338	-	-	-

SECTION XIV - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH). REGULATIONS 1934 AND 1938.

The Mussel Purification Works at Lympstone has not been in operation during the year under review.

The Exe Shellfish Company, Exmouth, employ the method of sterilization by boiling under pressure and this has proved very satisfactory during the year, and of the 18 samples of Shellfish which were sent for bacteriological examination during the year, all were found to be satisfactory.

Nature of Specimen	Number of Samples	Result, according to the Fishmongers' Company Standards.
Mussels	6	SATISFACTORY
Cockles	12	SATISFACTORY

SECTION XV - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

This port is not approved for the landing of aliens.

SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

Such persons would be conveyed by the infectious disease ambulance to the mortuary at Whipton Isolation Hospital to await burial.